



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs

MEMORANDUM

TO: Persons and Agencies Interested in Commenting on the South Carolina Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application

FROM: John Westerhold, OHSJP Director

RE: Solicitation for Public Comment

DATE: May 21, 2020

The Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) of the SC Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) is in the process of submitting its annual grant application for FFY 2020 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) division of the US Department of Justice (USDOJ). Later this year, Congressional appropriations from FFY 2020 will be awarded by the USDOJ to the States. These allocations will include funds for the JAG program. South Carolina's formula portion of the JAG award, administered by the SCDPS, is expected to be approximately \$3.2 million. With this announcement, the SCDPS invites public comment regarding the application submitted and the best use of these funds.

Cities, counties, state agencies, and non-profit organizations, such as faith-based organizations, are eligible under the federal legislation to apply for JAG funds through the SCDPS. There are eight purpose areas that may be considered for subgrant awards:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs (including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams)

Within these purpose areas, JAG funds may be used to pay for personnel, overtime, equipment, travel, and training. In general, these funds may be used for statewide initiatives, technical assistance, and the support of criminal justice systems in local jurisdictions. All grant awards require a 10% cash match from each recipient.

The OHSJP is also seeking recommendations on funding priorities, jurisdictions of greatest need, innovative programs worthy of replication, and general matters of public policy related to the administration of justice in South Carolina.

Solicitation for Public Comment
May 21, 2020
Page Two

Comment is welcomed and interested parties are encouraged to learn more about the JAG program by viewing the BJA web site at www.bja.gov/Jag/. Comments and questions regarding this solicitation for public input should be submitted as soon as possible, and be directed to:

Aloysius Anderson
Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs
South Carolina Department of Public Safety
Post Office Box 1993
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016
(803) 896-8711
AloysiusAnderson@scdps.gov